

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL 20/05/2024

Councillors Present: Chairman Mrs. A. Bennett, Ms. H. Allsopp, Mr. B. Gooding, Mr. R. Leveridge, Mr. G. Tuttiett and Mrs. H. White

Also Attending: Mrs S. Ferguson (Clerk), Mr M. Bennett, Unitary Cllrs. B. Filmer and T.Grimes (from 8.02pm).

Minutes were taken by the Clerk.

The meeting was opened at 7.00 pm by the outgoing Chairman Mrs. A. Bennett who gave her resignation as a Councillor.

LPC17/24 Cllr. R. Leveridge was elected Chairman and duly signed Acceptance of Office.

LPC18/24 Cllr. B. Gooding was elected Vice Chairman and duly signed Acceptance of Office.

(The New Chairman closed the meeting at 7.06 pm)

He gave a vote of thanks to Mrs. A. Bennett for her eight years of service and to Mr M. Bennett for his outstanding work editing the Lympsham News for ten years. The Clerk then mentioned this evening also marked Cllr. B. Gooding's 25th year of becoming a Councillor. Mrs Bennett gave a short speech and thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their support. (Mr and Mrs Bennett left the meeting at 7.18 pm and the meeting was resumed).

LPC19/24 There were no apologies or declarations of Interest.

LPC20/24 The Minutes of 15th April 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

LPC21/24 There were no Members of the Public present for Public speaking.

LPC22/24 Planning Applications for consideration:

- 24/23/00002/LE Delhorn Boarding Kennel, Weston Road, Edingworth, Somerset. BS24 0JQ. Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of a replacement dwelling and change of use and conversion of kennel buildings to 3no.dwellings, including the formation of vehicular access. It was resolved to support this application as an improvement to the existing dwelling.

LPC23/24 It was resolved to adopt the new NALC Financial Regulations 2024.

LPC24/24 It was resolved to adopt the Code of Conduct for Somerset with no changes from 2023.

LPC25/24 It was resolved to approve Councillor and Officer responsibilities for 2024-2025 as follows;

- Planning – full Council/Clerk if delegated
- SALC-Full Council
- SLCC – Clerk
- Footpaths – Cllr. H. White
- Play Area/ Defibrillator –Clerk
- Neighbourhood Watch-Full Council

LPC26/24

It was resolved to adopt the Scheme of Delegation –Planning Applications, with one clause being omitted.

LPC27/24

The continuation of the General Power of Competence was noted as the Council and Clerk meet all requirements.

LPC28/24

It was resolved to approve the Insurance Quotation for 2024. Action: Clerk to request a separate quote for Cyber Insurance.

LPC29/24

The quote for the internet connection at the Manor Hall was discussed and it was resolved to accept the quote.

Action: Clerk to establish if CIL money can be used for this purpose.

LPC30/24

It was resolved to publish guidelines on the use of the Football Goals on the village green. Action: Clerk.

LPC31/24

Councillor refresher training was discussed and the Chairman asked the Clerk to provide details of suitable opportunities for online training sessions.

LPC32/24

Financial Report and to formally approve payments for May 2024. The following payments were approved. - Unanimous.

(Please note, that Speed Indicator Management is taken from CIL funds).

- Clerk Salary May £793.90 + £100.00 Quarterly Expenses £893.90
- Whitehouse Kennels (dog bins) £120.00
- Annual Insurance (Gallagher) £516.30
- PGC Contracting (Grounds Maintenance) £532.80
- Speed Indicator Management (Nicholls Facilities Ltd) £114.00
- HMRC (Tax/N.I.) £188.85
- SLCC Annual fee (65%) £157.95
- Tarmac for patching road £9.54

The balances of accounts after the above payments are:

- C/A £4,463.08
- D/A £48,691.30 (Comprised of £773.66 Lympsham in Bloom funds, £517.20, Gardening Club funds, £864.28 Chatty Hour Grant, Old photos Group Grant £350.00, £9821.33 CIL, £10,000.00 General Reserves and remaining Precept £26,364.83).
- VAT (To reclaim) = £295.06
- Player –Mason =£2415.39

LPC33/24

Clerk Report

The Annual Meeting Agenda has been amended from last year's format as the Transparency Code states that Councillors' roles and responsibilities should be shown.

The Clerk has submitted a revised grant application for Chatty Hour after feedback from SALC on a few of the criteria.

The Computing advisor to the Wessex Academy Learning Trust has provided a quotation for a separate internet access point for the Manor Hall. This will use a Smoothwall firewall and be configured separately to the school network. The Clerk thinks this could be paid for by CIL finding and has emailed to ask if this would be acceptable. The item is on the May Agenda for consideration.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Peninsula Pensions) has accepted Lympsham Parish Council to the scheme. The Clerk has to undertake training and will update the Council further.

NALC has issued new Financial Regulations guidelines which the Clerk has amended. Cllr. Leveridge has kindly proofread and checked and they are now specific for Lympsham Parish Council. These were issued before the meeting so Councillors have time to look through them before adopting them.

The Clerk has transferred £27,000 from the current account to the reserves account to receive interest.

GENERAL REPORTS

- Somerset Council Report: Cllr. B. Filmer spoke about the 200+ voluntary redundancy packages, 49 of which were to be reviewed at a Full Council meeting as the costs were in excess of £100,000, the most expensive being circa £500,000 including Pension rights. The 6-year Contract for Recycling is under review, Suez asked to hand back the Contract as its costs had risen significantly and even with the 'get-out' clause penalties, they would be better off not continuing. As only two Companies have the capacity for Somerset, negotiations were underway to reach a compromise. Some recycling Centres may now be threatened with closure to broker this deal.
- N.W: No report
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: No report.
- Sports Club/Café: AGM Meeting was held on 16th May.
- Manor Hall: Quote for Internet access.
- Highways: Pothole patching has taken place. The Chairman attended the LCN Highways meeting and will be attending a follow-up Meeting this Friday.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks were carried out by the Clerk, and some litter was picked up. Defibrillator report to the Circuit carried out.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: The tree work in the play area had to be postponed as planning permission had not yet been given.
- Drainage Issues: No issues.
- Footpaths: Nothing new this month.
- Village Events: Lighting of the Beacon and D-Day Celebration preparation underway.
- St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering: Quotations for work are well above expectations. The Clock also needs £12,000 of work in restoration.

LPC34/24 Items to take forward to the next meeting:

- To consider Estate Agent signs on Parish Council maintained land at the entrance to the Village.
- Update on Cyber Insurance quotation.
- To request a Report from the Shop Committee.
- To consider Lantern restoration by solar lights provision.
- To consider the Lithium battery petition request.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 17th June at 7.00 pm

The meeting ended at 8.23 pm.

These Minutes were signed as a true record on Monday 17th June 2024.